HELL GIRL 地獄少女

4

Miyuki Eto

Original story by The Jigoku Shoujo Project

デルレイ

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Ballantine Books

DEL REY

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Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

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Translator/adapter: Gemma Collinge
Lettering: North Market Street Graphics

Hell Girl

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Miyuki Eto

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DEL REY
Ballantine Books · New York

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-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

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地獄少女 4

Hell Girl

Miyuki Eto

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Prologue

Ugh.

TWIST

Ngh.

Are you satisfied?

Ai...

SWOOSH

Your grudge...

...burned the village and took many lives.

Father.
Mother!!

I didn't do anything wrong!

I'm not doing anything wrong!

They were the ones in the wrong!

Your crime is heavy.

By acting on your own grudge, a new grudge was born.

GASP!

I will not let you go down to hell.

You will remain with the living, and fully learn the weight of your crime.

If you disagree, then the souls of the ones that you love will wander for eternity.

From now on, you...

...Ai Enma...

...are the Hell Girl.

Hell...

Girl...

Chapter 14: Melody of Sorrow

Author's Comment

Thanks to all of your support, *Hell Girl* has now reached its fourth volume. Thank you so much!

The anime is really fun, too.

It's so different from the first series. We're slowly getting to see the backgrounds of Ai's companions. I can't take my eyes off it!

When I'm watching the drama, I'm always seeing things I hadn't thought of before.

I've been working really hard to capture that attractive aspect of *Hell Girl* in this manga.

Miyuki Eto

I overslept!

DUMPH

DUMPH

Yui, your breakfast?

No need.

You've been staying up late again.

FLIP

My dad isn't my real dad.

See you after school!

Don't fall asleep in class!

I know!

My dad was the one who saved us from it.

My real dad disappeared when I was three years old after he fell into debt.

We owe him so much.

He's so kind, and he really takes care of my family...

4-2

11/13

Singing Con

I want to decide on who's going to accompany the choir for the singing contest.

Who is good on the piano?

SILENCE

Yui, why don't you do it?

You play during break sometimes.

Huh?

No way! Anyway, I don't have a piano at home.

You can practice at school!

Raise your hand if you think it should be Aihara-san.

はーい YEAH!

It's decided then.

Eh!

See you!

Bye!

What am I going to do?

There's no way I'm going to be able to learn to play properly.

But, I remember...

My old house had a piano and I used to play on it lots.

It was so much fun.

Maybe I should try learning to play again.

It's so difficult!

Messed up again.

Argh.

You're home late today.

Been out with your friends?

Oh.

I should tell you.

I'm going to be accompanying the choir at the singing contest.

I'm practicing the piano in school.

Why aren't we in the manga more?!

Sorry.

BANG

You have to refuse.

You MUST.

You can't play piano!

Huh...?

Hate...

I guess he must hate it, now.

Mom?

Does Dad hate piano?!

Why was he so angry?

Yui.

CLICK

HMM...

WAH

I remember this!

Piano Lesson

Piano Practice Music

So let's keep it a secret from your dad.

Here... This is the music you used to practice with.

I'll take good care of it!

I know.

It sounds so beautiful.

Why does Dad hate it?

You quit the piano, didn't you?

HUH!

Yui.

Another girl is going to do it.

Oh.

Yeah...

Dad...he doesn't mind as long as I'm not playing the piano.

It'll be fine so long as he doesn't find out.

If you have time to waste on the piano...

...you should be studying instead.

SMILE

I see.

Aihara-san.

I can't wait to hear you at the contest.

WOW!

You played perfectly!

You're really good!

You really should start learning it properly...

Thanks!

I love playing the piano!

Oh, my dad won't let me...

Why don't I teach you after school?

Okay!

Absolutely wonderful!

You play the concert music perfectly.

Why don't we try some-thing else?

Piano Lesson

How about this?

This is...

...Mom and...

A photo?

RUSTLE

You brought some of your own music?

Yes! I used to use this to practice.

Who?

Huh? That man...

I feel like I've seen him somewhere before.

Probably just my imagination, though.

I'm so late!

Oh no.

Welcome home.

You're late today.

I'm home!

PHEW!

No, not yet. It's okay.

PANT

PANT

Is Dad back yet?

My teacher heard me play today.

She said I was really good!

That's great.

Oh!

Anyway, there was this photo...

Piano Lesson

no Practice Music

It's all right.

I'm sorry...

...that you have to keep it a secret.

What's that?

Dad.

SLAP

You went behind my back!

Piano Practice Music

Let me go!

Ow!

Stop it!

TUG

Come here!!

THUD

CLICK

No way!

SLAM

I'll make sure you never touch a piano again.

You're going to stay in your room for now.

Huh?

KNOCK KNOCK コンコン

Yui.

I brought you some food.

WHACK

Aaah!

MOM?!

Don't go behind my back!

Mom?

Mom!!

You under-stand me?!

Don't interfere again!

6 The contest is tomorrow...

7

13

14 Singing Contest!

21

I haven't eaten for two days.

DING DONG

My friends...

Huh?

The contest is tomorrow.

Is Yui-chan okay?

Oh! Yui's friends?

Ugh!

GO HOME!

But...

Huh?

You're Yui's friends?!

What is he saying?

Because you forced her to play piano, she can't go to school anymore!

I told them to find a replacement for you.

Stop it!!!

No.

Then...

...you can let me out now.

Why is he doing this?

If I let you out, then I won't know if you've started playing piano again.

That's not true!!

You used to be so nice...

What happened to you, Dadz?!

GRIN

DUMPH

Haha hahaha!

Ha ha ha ha ha!

Someone!

When is this going to stop?

HM.

Oh, that site where you can take revenge on people?

Hey, have you heard of "Hell Correspondence"?

And the Hell Girl will come and sort them out for you.

You put in the name of someone who really annoys you.

地獄通信

HELL CORRESPONDENCE

Take this.

The person you hate will be sent straight to hell.

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete.

CHIRP

CHIRP

What should I do?

However...

To curse someone is to dig a double grave.

ガチャ

CLICK

If I send Dad to hell, what will happen to Mom and me?

The pianist, Makoto Takigawa.

Dad...

RIP

You really do have his blood in you.

My real dad was a pianist?!

But I didn't become a pianist. I failed at my job...

I was burdened with debt.

I had so much more talent than him.

Your father...

In college, everyone raved about what a genius he was.

Then...

Aren't you Aihara-kun?

He was a well-respected pianist.

You all made such a happy family too.

I was so jealous.

It's been so long.

I knew it! We were in the same class at college...

I pretended to be his friend. All the while, I was looking for the right moment.

I wanted it all for myself.

Why is it all in my name?

What is this loan?!

What is this?!

CRACK

SWOOSH

ズル！

DRAG

ズル！

DRAG

He took all the debt with him...

...when he fell into the sea.

SPLASH

After that, it was easy.

He killed my...

He went missing because of the debt.

It's been five years now.

HEH.

Back in college, she never noticed me.

But then, she was all over me!

HA HA HA

I should just make it so you can't play piano again.

I'll just cut off two or three fingers.

It'll be all right.

The straw doll!!

Aaaah!

YANK

You!

And your mother!

Who do you think has been providing for you?!

TUG

What's that?

You're going to curse me?!

STOP IT!

AAAAH!

SPLATTER

Ngh.

MOM!

All this time...

You've been deceiving us!

DRIP

DRIP

ぽた

ぽた

Mom.

Mom, stay with me!

THUNK

Ah?

Yui...

Are you hurt?

You're the idiot for not realizing it!

That's all I need to know.

I'm fine.

I made a mistake.

I'm so sorry.

I didn't protect you.

AAAAAAHHHH-!

Your grudge...

What?

Where is this?

...has been heard.

A piano?

HUH?

ギリ
WHIP
ギリ
WHIP

AARRGGHH!

ICK!

TIGHT

TIGHT

BANG

Wha...

My fingers are moving by themselves!

Stop this!

SWISH!

すー

Some— some-one!

You used to like the piano too, right?

Now you'll have the chance to play in hell.

For eternity.

What?!

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

Your hurtful actions to others have tainted your immortal soul.

Do you want to see what death looks like?

GRIP

"To curse someone is to dig a double grave."

Hey, Mom.

Teach me the piano.

I'm so relieved!

You're going to be all right, Mom!

"In return for revenge, after death, your soul will go down to hell."

I want to be a pianist like my dad.

...want revenge?

Do you still...

Explanation and Nonsense

Chapter 14 "Melody of Sorrow"

When I was little, I learned the piano, too, but I was totally useless. I couldn't play a thing! I failed at the guitar, too. I'm tone-deaf, so I'm best at just listening to music.

One time I wasn't paying attention, and when I took off my headphones, I spilled coffee on them. Now music comes out of only one side.

Chapter 15 "Puppy Waltz"

When I lived in Hiroshima, there was a large park near my home where I'd go for a walk. On Sundays, there were lots of people playing Frisbee with their dogs running around with them. It looked like so much fun! Dogs are really fast...

I hope that we can put an end to animal cruelty.

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Ngh.

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Are you satisfied?

Ai...

SWOOSH

Your grudge...

...burned the village and took many lives.

Father.
Mother!!

By acting on your own grudge, a new grudge was born.

Your crime is heavy.

I didn't do anything wrong!

I'm not doing anything wrong!

They were the ones in the wrong!

GASP!

I will not let you go down to hell.

You will remain with the living, and fully learn the weight of your crime.

If you disagree, then the souls of the ones that you love will wander for eternity.

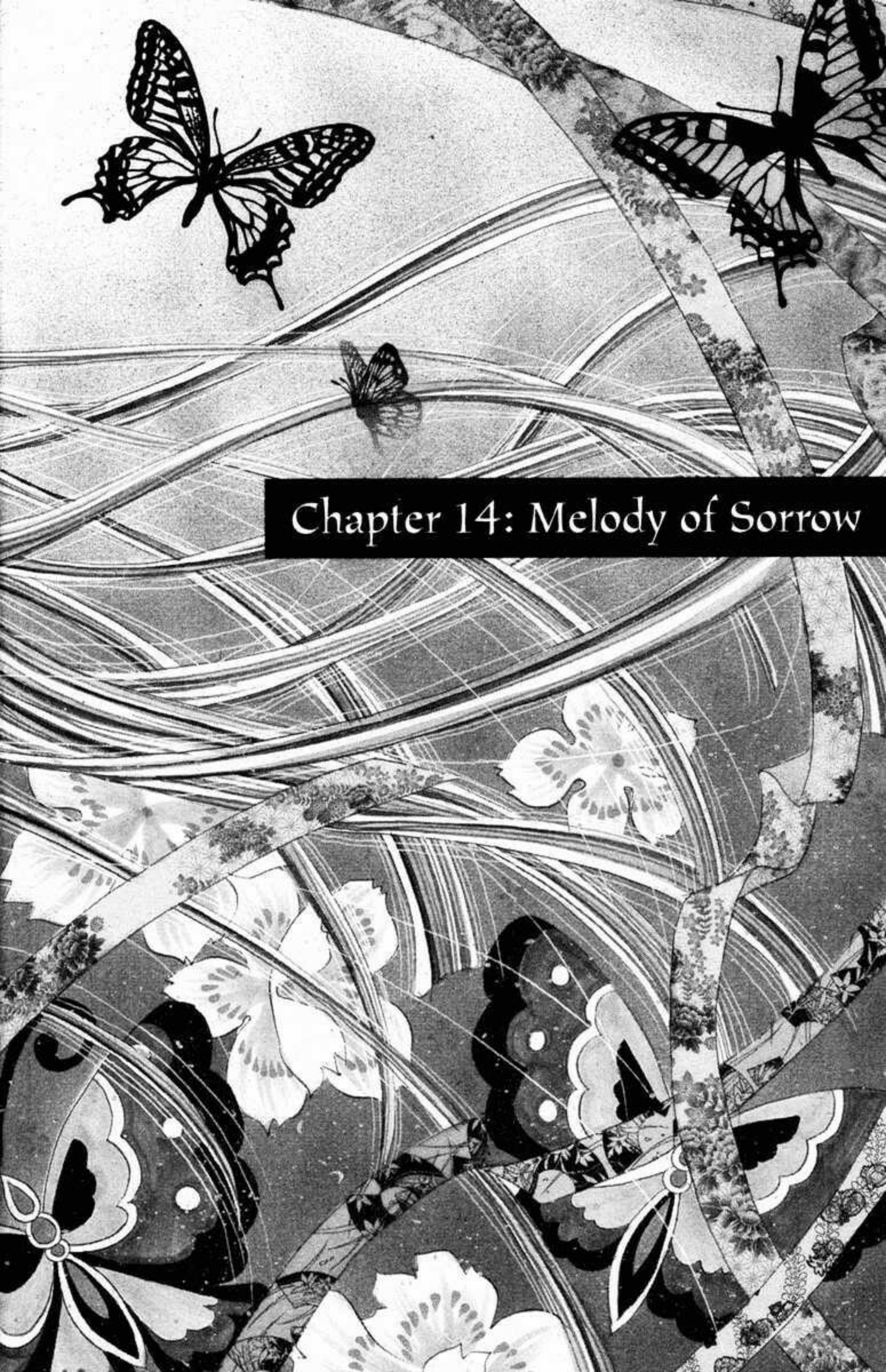
From now on, you...

...Ai Enma...

...are the Hell Girl.

Hell...

Girl...



Chapter 14: Melody of Sorrow

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I overslept!

DUMPH

ばたん

DUMPH

ばたん

Yui, your breakfast?

No need.

You've been staying up late again.

バサッ

FLIP

My dad isn't my real dad.

See you after school!

Don't fall asleep in class!

I know!

My real dad disappeared when I was three years old after he fell into debt.

My dad was the one who saved us from it.

We owe him so much.

He's so kind, and he really takes care of my family...

4-2

11/13
Singing Con

I want to decide on who's going to accompany the choir for the singing contest.

Who is good on the piano?

SILENCE

Yui, why don't you do it?

You play during break sometimes.

Huh?

You can practice at school!

No way! Anyway, I don't have a piano at home.

Raise your hand if you think it should be Aihara-san.

はーい YEAH!

It's decided then.

Eh!

See you!

Bye!

What am I going to do?

There's no way I'm going to be able to learn to play properly.

But, I remember...

My old house had a piano and I used to play on it lots.

It was so much fun.

Maybe I should try learning to play again.

It's so difficult!

Messed up again.

Argh.

Why aren't we in the manga more?!

Sorry.

You're home late today.

Oh.

I should tell you.

Been out with your friends?

I'm going to be accompanying the choir at the singing contest.

I'm practicing the piano in school.

BANG

You have to refuse.

You MUST.

Huh...?

You can't play piano!

Why was he so angry?

Yui.

CLICK

Mom?

Does Dad hate piano?!

Hate...

I guess he must hate it, now.

HMM...

WAH

I remember this!

Piano Lesson

Piano Practice Music

So let's keep it a secret from your dad.

Here... This is the music you used to practice with.

I'll take good care of it!

I know.

It sounds so beautiful.

Why does Dad hate it?

Yui.

You quit the piano, didn't you?

HUH!

Another girl is going to do it.

Oh.

Yeah...

Dad...he doesn't mind as long as I'm not playing the piano.

If you have time to waste on the piano...

I see.

SMILE

...you should be studying instead.

It'll be fine so long as he doesn't find out.

WOW!

You played perfectly!

I can't wait to hear you at the contest.

Aihara-san.

You're really good!

I love playing the piano!

Thanks!

You really should start learning it properly...

Oh, my dad won't let me...

Why don't I teach you after school?

Okay!

Absolutely wonderful!

You play the concert music perfectly.

Why don't we try some-thing else?

Piano Lesson

How about this?

You brought some of your own music?

Yes! I used to use this to practice.

RUSTLE

A photo?

This is...

...Mom and...

Who?

Huh? That man...

I feel like I've seen him somewhere before.

Probably just my imagination, though.

I'm so late!

Oh no.

Welcome home.

You're late today.

I'm home!

PHEW!

Is Dad back yet?

PANT

PANT

No, not yet. It's okay.

My teacher heard me play today.

She said I was really good!

That's great.

I'm sorry...

...that you have to keep it a secret.

It's all right.

Oh!

Anyway, there was this photo...

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no Practice Music

What's that?

Dad.

SLAP

You went behind my back!

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Let me go!

Ow!

Stop it!

TUG

Come here!!

THUD

CLICK

No way!

SLAM

I'll make sure you never touch a piano again.

Huh?

You're going to stay in your room for now.

KNOCK KNOCK コンコン

Yui.

I brought you some food.

WHACK

Aaah!

MOM?!

Mom?

Mom!!

Don't go behind my back!

You understand me?!

Don't interfere again!

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14 Singing Contest!

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I haven't eaten for two days.

DING DONG

My friends...

HUH?

Is Yui-chan okay?

The contest is tomorrow.

Oh! Yui's friends?

UGH!

GO HOME!

But...

Huh?

What is he saying?

You're Yui's friends?!

Because you forced her to play piano, she can't go to school anymore!

Stop it!!!

I told them to find a replacement for you.

Then...

...you can let me out now.

No.

That's not true!!

If I let you out, then I won't know if you've started playing piano again.

Why is he doing this?

You used to be so nice...

What happened to you, Dadz!

GRIN

DUMPH

たーん!!

Haha hahaha!

Ha ha ha ha!

Someone!

When is this going to stop?

Hm.

Oh, that site where you can take revenge on people?

Hey, have you heard of "Hell Correspondence"?

And the Hell Girl will come and sort them out for you.

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CHIRP

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ガチャ

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The pianist, Makoto Takigawa.
Dad...

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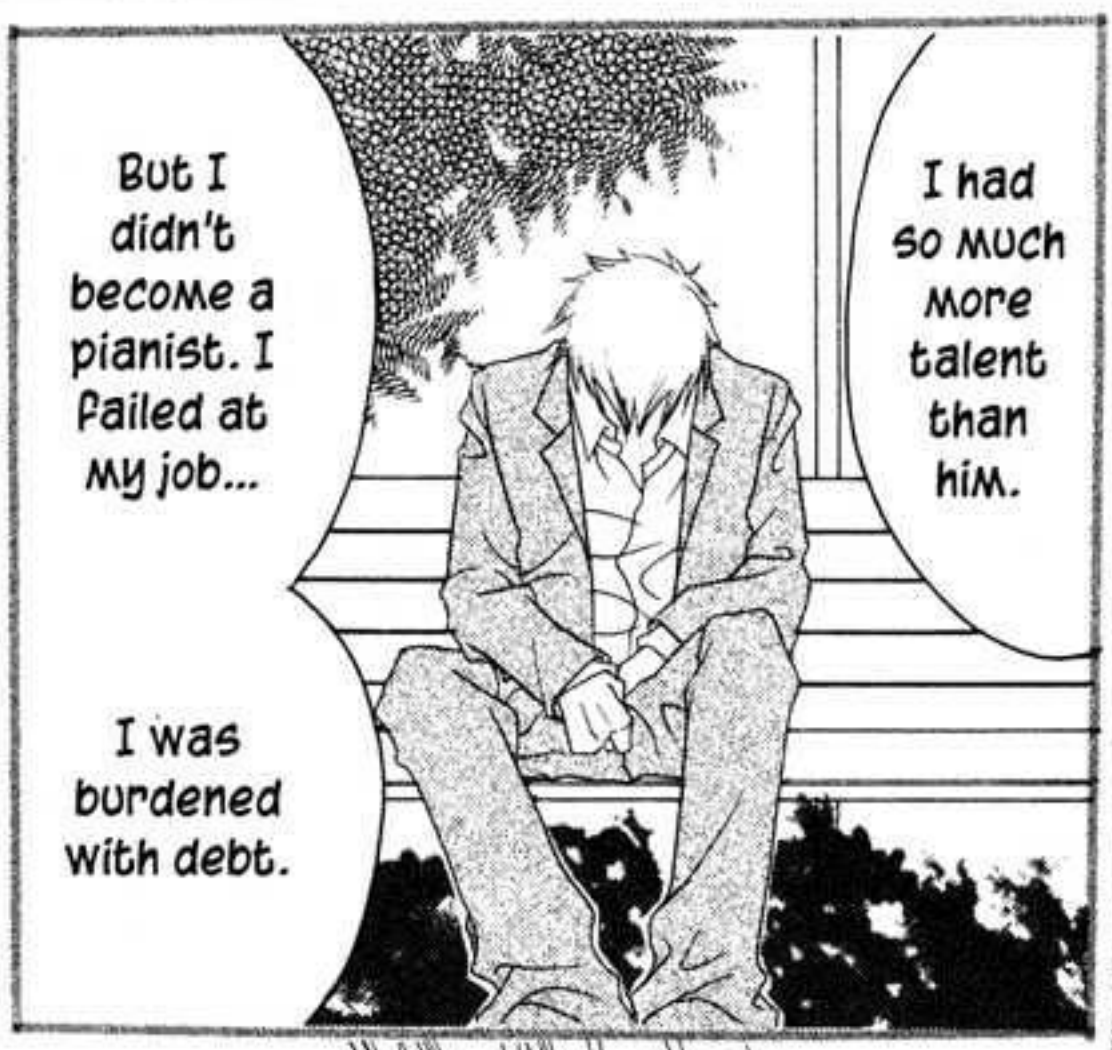
You really do have his blood in you.
My real dad was a pianist?!


But I didn't become a pianist. I failed at my job...
I had so much more talent than him.
I was burdened with debt.

Your father...
In college, everyone raved about what a genius he was.

Then...
Aren't you Aihara-kun?

He was a well-respected pianist.

You all made such a happy family too.

I was so jealous.

I knew it! We were in the same class at college...

It's been so long.

I pretended to be his friend. All the while, I was looking for the right moment.

I wanted it all for myself.

What is this loanz?!

Why is it all in my namez?

What is thisz?!

SWOOSH

CRACK

DRAG

ズルズル!

DRAG

He took all the debt with him...

...when he fell into the sea.

SPLASH!

He killed my...

After that, it was easy.

He went missing because of the debt.

It's been five years now.

HEH.

Back in college, she never noticed me.

But then, she was all over me!

HAHA HAHA!

You and Yui.

I'll look after you now.

WHUH?

I made sure that you were happy.

But you still wanted to play piano.

HUH?

CHING

But I'm sorry.

There's no point in keeping you locked up in here.

I should just make it so you can't play piano again.

I'll just cut off two or three fingers.

It'll be all right.

The straw doll!!

Aaaah!

YANK

What's that?

You're going to curse me?!

Who do you think has been providing for you?!

TUG

You!

And your mother!

AAAHH!

STOP IT!

SPLATTER

Ngh.

MOM!

All this time...

You've been deceiving us!

DRIP

DRIP

Mom.

Mom, stay with me!

THUNK

Ah?

You're the idiot for not realizing it!

Yui...

Are you hurt?

I'm fine.

That's all I need to know.

I'm so sorry.

I didn't protect you.

I made a mistake.

Your grudge...

WAAAAHHHH!

What?

Where is this?

...has been heard.

A piano?

HUH?

ギリ
ギリ
WHIP
WHIP

AARRGGHH!

ICK!

TIGHT

TIGHT

BANG

Wha...

My fingers are moving by themselves!

Some— some- one!

Stop this!

SWISH

You used to like the piano too, right?

Now you'll have the chance to play in hell.

What?!

For eternity.

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

Your hurtful actions to others have tainted your immortal soul.

Do you want to see what death looks like?

GRIP

"To curse someone is to dig a double grave."

Hey, Mom.

Teach me the piano.

I'm so relieved!

You're going to be all right, Mom!

I want to be a pianist like my dad.

"In return for revenge, after death, your soul will go down to hell."

...want revenge?

Do you still...

Explanation and Nonsense

Chapter 14 "Melody of Sorrow"

When I was little, I learned the piano, too, but I was totally useless. I couldn't play a thing! I failed at the guitar, too. I'm tone-deaf, so I'm best at just listening to music.

One time I wasn't paying attention, and when I took off my headphones, I spilled coffee on them. Now music comes out of only one side.

Chapter 15 "Puppy Waltz"

When I lived in Hiroshima, there was a large park near my home where I'd go for a walk. On Sundays, there were lots of people playing Frisbee with their dogs running around with them. It looked like so much fun! Dogs are really fast...

I hope that we can put an end to animal cruelty.

Chapter 15: Puppy Waltz

Yuuka.

Miyako.

Morning.

Sorry.

Nana, you're so late.

No. 101

No. 402

No. 303

The three of us have lived in the same apartment building since we were kids.

Ah!

I want to go to a bookshop on the way home.

Okay, let's meet at the school gate.

For four years, we've always been together.

RUSTLE

Let me borrow that book when you're finished.

Okay.

Me too!

Some-thing just moved!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

AAAH!

What is it?

I spilled curry on my last kimono.

That's why the design has changed.

That's a lie.

Ichimokuren.

BLINK

A dog?

WOOF

WOOF

Wah!

GULP

GULP

He's eating so much.

Wow, what an appetite!

He must have been hungry.

Wah!

He's still scared.

WOOF

WOOF

There you go.

TOUCH

We can't just leave him.

Let's keep him nearby so we can look after him.

GROWL

What are we going to do?

We're not allowed to have pets in our apartments.

That's true.

What shall we call him?

HMM.

He's totally white, so...

I know!

The apartment has a rooftop.

TAP

Bye, Shiro. See you tomorrow!

It's almost seven.

We should get home soon.

So...

We'll call him Shiro!

TAP TAP TAP

Ah!

You can't follow me.

Shiro.

TAP

402

Can't we hide him?

Don't be silly.

You know that we're not allowed to have pets here.

You picked up a dog.

For our next feature...

...a woman who has devoted her life to caring for stray dogs.

...we would like to introduce...

I look after lots of dogs that have no place to go.

If anybody has come across a lost dog, or for any reason can't look after their own dog...

Nana...

We need to take care of life, however small it is.

Shiro would be happier...

...somewhere he can be looked after properly.

ハックション!

ACHOO!

Shiro hasn't been well.

I think he has a cold.

ハーハー…

WHEEZE

Shiro.

What am I going to do? I can't leave him like this.

ハーハー

WHEEZE

"Shiro would be happier...

...somewhere he can be looked after properly."

HUG

Okay.

This is Shiro-chan?

I'll take good care of him, so don't worry.

Shiro...

Please take good care of him.

I'm so sorry I couldn't be with you forever.

Hey.

Why don't we go and see him?!

I wonder how Shiro is.

It's been three weeks.

Let's look over the wall.

Hey.

EH!

Huh?

DING DONG

No one's home?

We rode an hour on the train to get here!

It's too high!

Then...

We'll lift you up.

Al...

Almost...

Well?

Can you see?

RUSTLE

What is this?

She's not looking after them properly!

BARK

BARK

BANG

Shut up!

?!

If you're not quiet, then you'll get no food.

Didn't I tell you not to bark!

SHIRO!

Huh?

THUD

Quick!

That old woman is beating the dogs!

Eh?

You saw me?

She was probably just punishing them for barking.

But she really was yelling at the dogs!

Everyone knows she loves dogs.

There's no way she'd do that.

What are we gonna do?

We can't leave them there. They'll die!

You're right.

Hey!

Why don't we sneak in and give them some food?

I don't know.

You're just kids.

Shiro!

HEY

We brought food for everyone!

HAH!

Is this to stop you from barking?!

No way!

What's this on your nose?!

STAGGER

STAGGER

We have to help them!

No way!

I have to wait for the other two to finish cram school.

HUFF
はー…

はあはあ

HUFF

PUFF

It's already dark, but there are no lights on.

Huh?

If she's not home, then I should just go on without them!

Shiro.

Here's some food.

カリカリ

HOP

Here I go.

THUNK

JUMP

Stupid dog!

What are you doing, kid?

Spying on me and then breaking in!

GRAB

Stop it!

SLAM

CRASH

If you like dogs that MUCH...

GROWL

No!

No!

WHOOSH

...you can go in there too.

BARK!

Shiro!!

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

What happened?

Na...

Nana.

CLICK

We'll get you out!

CLICK

CLICK

What are you doing?!

SHIRO!!

Nana, quick!

CLENCH

HUFF HUFF

I can't believe it!

We should go to the police!

No.

They'll just ignore us again.

I have to...

BARK

Shiro jumped in and saved me.

The cold weather front might...

There must be something I can do!

...bring snow tonight.

Next, the missing...

Hell Girl?

You mean that site?

MISSING

Scary.

...was taken by the Hell Girl.

I heard that that girl...

Then the Hell Girl will take revenge?

You can access it only at exactly Midnight. If you put in the name of someone you hate...

Hell Correspondence

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete.

The person you despise will be sent straight to hell.

Take this.

The snow...

It's really piled up.

Do you still want revenge?

I hope Shiro and the other dogs are all right.

Hey...

However...to curse someone is to dig a double grave.

In return for revenge, after death, your soul will go down to hell too.

I wonder what kind of place hell is.

Nana?

Nana?!

Don't think such weird things!

If only...

If only that old woman would go to hell.

CLENCH

Yeah.

Hell...?

That's kind of like where Shiro is now—hell.

WHISPER WHISPER

ヒソヒソ

What does it look like, Nana?

It's risky.

The old woman is there.

Yeah.

So dirty.

Another one dead of some disease.

?!

Better get it out of here.

So annoying!

Nanaz!

DASH

Your grudge...

...has been heard.

This is the only thing I can do!

No.

She'll kill Shiro too if I don't do something!

Look.

Foot-prints?!

It couldn't be!

I

Now that old woman—

Hey!

You scared us.

Sorry.

Running off like that...

Shiro!!

What happened?!

SHIRO!!

You came home.

The Hell Girl must have done it.

You walked all this way!

Shiro?

I gave him a good beating. He's probably a goner now.

The same will happen to all of you if you try and run away.

HEH

Stupid dog...

...bit me.

Huh?

Who are you?

GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE

You think anyone else will look after you?

I don't know.

GLARE

So cruel...

...for a dog lover.

Shut up.

They're my dogs. I can do what I want.

I should be thanked for rescuing them from death.

When I'm bored, I can take my stress out on them.

Really?

I have a good time doing it.

SWOOSH

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

Your hurtful actions to others... have tainted your immortal soul.

WAAAHHH!

Do you want to see what death looks like?

Ugh.

Where...

...am I?!

Ah.

HH

CHING

HH

POP

POP

HH

RUSTLE

Somebody!!

Wha...

What is this?

HH

POP

Wh...

Where is this?

It's a place for lost children.

Come, quickly.

GRAB

Hah?

Hone Onna, Ichimokuren, you're late!

It's time for dinner.

We'll help you.

Look what we got you.

ARG

H-!

This is our pet dog.

We have to make sure he's well fed.

That house...

Its owner went missing, so the police went in to investigate. They found that she'd been abusing the dogs.

Ah. So some volunteers came to look after them.

Shiro, I'm sorry.

Look what happened to your leg.

Nana!

ARGH!

SLIP

I know.

Let's try talking to the landlord.

I...

I want to look after Shiro forever.

What are you going to do with Shiro now?

Mom.

"In return for revenge, after death, your soul will go down to hell and suffer eternal torment."

"Do you still want revenge?"

Chapter 16 "Beautiful Friendship"

In Chapter 15, Ai gets a new kimono. Before I was making flowers out of patterns on the computer, then cutting and pasting them together. Now I'm mixing together flowers and butterflies from lots of different patterns for Ai's new kimono.

This story has a really bad aftertaste to it (more so than the other chapters). I think I might want to do something similar again in the future.

Extra "The Fake Hell Correspondence"

I read the anime script and rearranged it a little. I'm a total idiot when it comes to machines. I have no idea about e-mail and host computers, etc. I had it explained to me by someone who did understand computers. My aim this year is to learn how to order things off the Internet by myself.

Chapter 16: Beautiful Friendship

Karaoke!

1/15 After school

Well, everyone...

Let's get going!

Umm.

Sure I did!

What are you going to sing?

Makoto, did you make a reserva-tion?

But...

Tomita-san.

Are you ready?

Everyone in my class gets on well! We're always hanging out together.

...

Tomita-san.

Are you coming to karaoke?

Hey!

Are you listening?

Hm?

YANK

Hey, Tsuho.

But...

You must be bored by yourself all the time.

Everyone is going.

You should come too.

You like manga.

If you don't get out, you'll never get a boyfriend.

Is this what you read?

SNATCH

What?

4

UGH

Let's get out of here.

Tsuho!

Makoto isn't coming anymore.

You're upsetting Tomita-san.

You should stop!

Hey...

I'm sorry, Tomita-san.

I should apologize.

Maybe I overdid it too.

Morning!

SLIDE

SILENCE

Oh, Morning, Tsuho.

I wanted to say—

Come here.

Huh?

What is it?

BANG

Your seat is over there now...

...Watanabe-san.

Why?!

HEE HEE

So we thought we'd let you talk to her now, Watanabe-san.

Tomita-san doesn't want to talk to us.

Is this all because of what happened yesterday?!

Yesterday, at karaoke...

AHAHAHA

あはは

...you were so good, Tsuho.

Umm. Tomita-san.

Did you do the assignment?

What am I going to do?

The whole class is ignoring Tomita-san and me.

.....

キーン DING
コーン DONG

Watanabe-san.

Oh.

All right.

You have study period next, right?

Your homeroom teacher asked that this be handed out.

1-3

MUTTER

MUTTER

Hey everyone.

I was told to give this to you during personal study time.

Great idea!

It's personal study!

Let's go to the media room!

Wait, everyone!

Let's go!

BANG

Hypocrite.

THUD

What is this?!

Is that really what you think of me?!

That's not fair, Tsuho.

But...

I want to see you in the staff room later.

No one got one!

I didn't get one.

Yeah.

But...

You were told to hand out a worksheet!

I put one on every-one's desk.

Oh dear.

It doesn't feel right somehow.

!

RUSTLE

キーン DING
コーン DONG

"This time do it properly!"

I hope everyone will take one this time.

ガラ～ SLIDE

Idiot.

Hypocrite.

Don't come to school!!

Pretending to be a good girl

Watanabe-san is a liar.

Freak.

Just leave!

Huh...

These...

...are the worksheets?

Why would they do this?!

It's not fair!

DASH

HEH

HEH

...we all suddenly stopped talking to Tomita-san. But she was always there.

SWOOSH

Now that I think of it...

SLIDE

If you take a look, you'll see.

Tomita-san...

What are you doing?

I can't forgive them for bullying me.

65. Hiro: 1/16/2007 (Tuesday)
Everyone in the class is saying bad things about me.
66. Anonymous: 1/16/2007 (Tuesday)
Help me. I don't want to go to school anymore.
67. Reiko: 1/16/2007 (Tuesday)

Here, everyone understands what it's like.

These guys are who I talk to.

They don't judge me like you do.

I can say what I really feel here.

People still say bad things?

But...

Why don't you just die?

So?

What do you want?

Does it matter?

I can just delete them.

I didn't ask you to help me in the first place.

Anyway...

Tomita-san, I thought we could get to know each other.

Um, you know...

We have nothing in common.

You're in my way.

Don't talk to me again.

Now everyone hates me.

I went out of my way...

I'm such an idiot.

HUHZ

Those are...

...Tomita-san's and my chairs!

ガラッ!

SLIDE

Ick.

She just came in!

We're ignoring you.

So don't bother coming in here!

You're so annoying!

Just leave it. Ignore her!

Ah ha ha.

Bullying Help
www.————————

Someone will listen to me here.

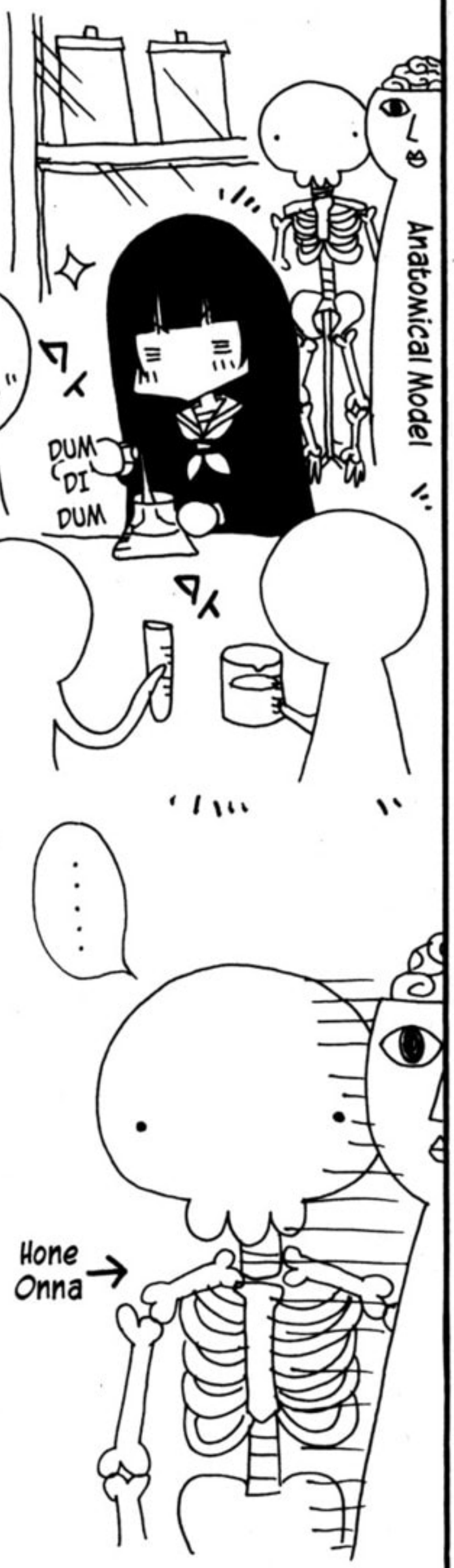
This is it.

The message board that Tomita-san was reading...

102. Yoo: 1/16/2007 (Tuesday) 19:38:02
Why don't you use Hell Correspondence?

Hell Correspondence?

Undercover
in the Science Lab



You can access Hell Correspondence only at exactly midnight.

Tsuho Kitano

You called?

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete.

The person you hate will be sent straight to hell.

Really?!

"In return for revenge, after death, your soul will go down to hell and suffer eternal torment."

However...

...to curse someone is to dig a double grave.

If I untie this thread then everything can go back to the way it was...

TUG

The way that it was...

No.

Try your best at the festival!

How about we go here to celebrate the end of exams?

Makoto!

I can't do that!

If I send Tsuho to hell, it can't be the way that it was!

Yeah.

Everything is fine.

Is everything okay?

You've not been looking well, Makoto.

I can't tell her...

...that everyone is ignoring me.

Morning.

Oh.

Morning.

DASH

Let's go.

I can't skip school and I can't send Tsuho to hell.

I'll just have to keep going.

So...

Morning.

Ngh.

Don't...

...tell Tsuho.

I just want to be friends with everyone like I used to be.

SLIDE

Umm.

Morning!

I don't really want to send Tsuho to hell.

Tsuho will understand that.

Looks like...

...she didn't pull the thread in the end.

There are always exceptions.

Shall we go and get the straw doll back?

Wait a little longer.

If I go to lunch with everyone...

...then Tsuho might...

DUMPH

TAP TAP

What have you said to everyone?

Don't you realize that you're ruining the mood for everyone?

You're so annoying!

Ahh!

CRASH

Tsuho.

Tsuho.

Have you always found me annoying?

I'll make myself be better!

I just want to be friends with you all again.

I...

CLENCH

SPLASH

I think...

...you're my best friend!

I want...

I want us to make up!

So why aren't you friends with her instead?!

You've got it wrong!

I thought that you were my friend.

But you stood up for Tomita-san.

Please.

Tsuho!

Makoto.

I'm so glad that...

I'm really sorry.

...I didn't pull the thread.

WHOOSH

TSU...

...ho?

Serves her right.

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

That thread...

You asked the Hell Girl too?!

It can't be.

くすHEE

くすHEE

Tomita-san?!

Everyone said I should do it...

But...

Make her disappear.

Heh.

Everything would be fine if she wasn't there.

If she annoys you, do it.

Ask the Hell Girl (lol)!

Ha ha ha!

Yeah!

I really did it.

Haha. Ah.

Heh.

I have to go and tell all my Internet friends straight away!

"I can just delete them."

This grudge...

...has sent you to hell...

Tsuho has been missing for three days now.

I wonder what happened.

Tsuho...

...and Tomita-san have stopped coming to school.

Freak.

She's really detached from reality.

She's probably just on the Internet at home.

You know.

There will always be times that I would like to get rid of someone.

But I'll never go on the Hell Correspondence site again.

Never.

Ai's Rage

Aaahh!

DIE!

GRR!

Miss, no!

WHOOSH

Rumors

If you put in the name of someone you want to kill, then the Hell Girl will do it for you!

Hey, have you heard of Hell Correspondence?

Oh, did you also hear?

Miss spreads the rumors herself.

That's impressive.

If you get in the way, then I'll puncture you!

Needle

I'll get you!

Her breasts aren't real.

That big-breasted woman who is with the Hell Girl?

Inside, he's air?

Aaah?!

He's a tire?

Or bone?

Silicon?

Not real? Fakes?

Don't go around saying that!

Clumsy Ai-chan

...I think Ai has gotten stupider.

Since the second season...

She falls in the river...

Stubs her toenails...

Careful, Miss!

SLIP

Banana skin

WAAAH!

Stop getting in my way!

I'm trying to be clumsy and cute!

Worrying

Waah!

CRUNCH

!!

What happened?

Aaaaaah!

The computer broke! I can't see my e-mail!

What do I do?

I don't know when my candy is going to be delivered.

What?

She's not worried about our clients at all!

I don't think that's going to work.

Yoroshiku

ACK!

Boring.

Now that you mention it, Wanyuudou is the only one who hasn't changed his clothes.

How about this?!

Yo-ro-shi-ku

In that case...

...I'll change myself!

Change back now.

Yuck...

Brand-New

Brand new.

My kimono.

Heh!

So cute!

You're looking fabulous!

Money! ♥

Now that my anime is a hit...

Wah...

I'm so jealous of you.

Heh heh heh!

To be continued

Kikuri's Diary

Nice to meet you. I'm Kikuri.

Kikuri...

I thought that you were Hone Onna's daughter.

Why?!

Hmm.

You both wear skimpy clothes.

We don't look alike!

Skimpy.

BOING

Skimpy?

A girl shouldn't show too much skin... (etc.)

NAG NAG NAG

The Hell Girl is four hundred years old now, so her thinking is a little outdated.

Kikuri's Diary

Today, I rode on Wanyuudou's shoulders.

RUB RUB

Hey.

So bald and shiny!

YOU...

Car thief!

Wanyuu-dou.

We're going to hell!

SLIDE

Hey!

When he's like this.

To get places, Hell Girl rides in Wanyuudou.

Aaah!

Get off!

Kikuri's Diary

It's Ichimokuren's turn today.

Watch Kikuri properly!

She plays around a lot.

DUM DI DUM

STARE

ACK!

Hell Girl made me confess to that later.

HAH HAH

TWITCH

It was freaky.

Aaaah!

Ichimokuren!

● TO BE CONTINUED? ●

This volume sees the debut of a new character, Kikuri-chan. In "Kikuri's Diary," we see her mischievous side; however, in the next book, I plan to have her do more bad things.

A big thank you to:
the people at Aniplex,
Maruyama-sama and Oriuchi-sama,
all those involved, and all those who helped.

About the Creator

Miyuki Eto

Birth date: July 3
Astrological sign: Cancer
Blood type: A

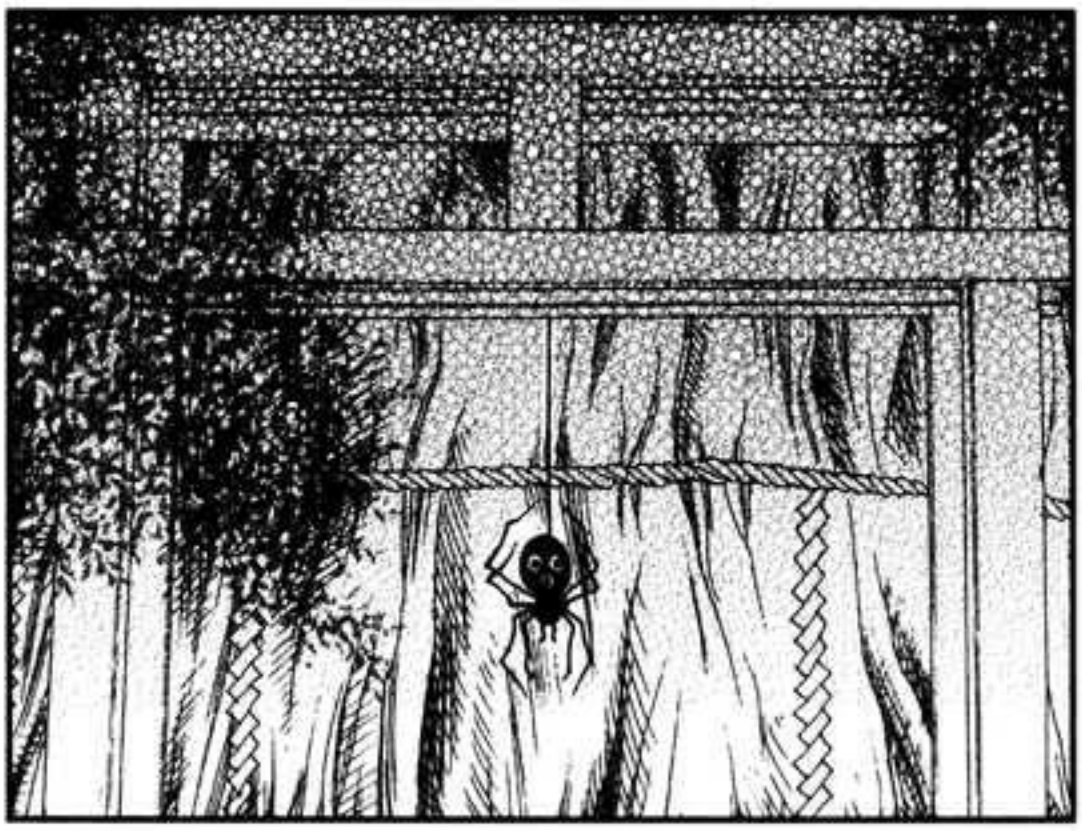
Born in Hiroshima prefecture, Miyuki Eto made her manga debut in *Nakayoshi* magazine's "Summer Vacationland" special issue with the story "Lila's Flower Language." That story won her the 25th Annual *Nakayoshi* New Manga Artist Award. To date, *Hell Girl* may be her best-known work. Her hobby is taking care of her cats!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

***Torii*, page 2**
Ai finds herself facing a traditional Japanese gate, or *torii*. These are a common sight at Japanese Shinto shrines, as well as some Buddhist shrines. They traditionally mark the transition between the normal world and sacred space.

***Shide* and *shimenawa*, page 2**
Behind the *torii* that Ai is facing is a tree decorated with a rope and zigzag paper streamers. This is another aspect of Japanese Shinto tradition. The rope is known as a *shimenawa* and is used to mark a sacred area. They are also used around trees or rocks that are believed to be the home of spirits. In particular, trees are sometimes believed to be the residence of spirits called *kodamas*. Cutting down their homes would result in great misfortune, so they are marked by *shimenawas*. The *shimenawa* itself will often be decorated with *shide*, which is paper that's been folded into a zigzag shape.



The spider, page 3
The use of the spider here could be an allusion to a famous story by Akutagawa Ryuunosuke called "The Spider's Thread." In the story, Buddha gives a man a chance to escape hell by throwing him a single spider's thread to use to climb out.

***Shiro*, page 56**
The Japanese word for "white" is *shiroi*, so Yuuka chooses to call her new dog Shiro.

Ichimoku's dog, page 86
Ichimoku's dog is the savage three-headed beast from Greek mythology known as Cerberus. Cerberus was believed to guard the gates of Hades, ensuring that the souls of the dead could enter but never escape. A fitting pet for the Hell Girl and her friends!

Ai's new kimono, page 89
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Tsuho has previously been calling Makoto by her first name. In Japan, it is common for people who are not particularly close to call each other by their surnames. Tsuho is making a statement here by calling poor Makoto "Watanabe-san," thus showing that their once close relationship is at an end, and they are now nothing more than classmates.

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Most Japanese schools require students to wear a uniform. The schools also have regulations for hairstyles and jewelry. Although how strict these rules are can vary, in many Japanese schools, correct uniform is seen as a matter of discipline and teachers will sometimes punish students severely for minor infractions.

Education in Japan, page 148

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The Fake Hell Correspondence

Morning.

Morning!

Morning, Sanae!

Ishimoto-sensei, good morning!

Morning.

Excuse me.

HUH?

I had time this morning...

...so I got my big sister to put in some loose curls.

Your hair is really bouncy today.

Ah.

Old Hayashi!

ガラッ

EEK!

I hate her so much. Old Hayashi lectures me all the time.

I made an appointment at the hairdresser.

Don't give me excuses!

Shiraishi-san!

I've told you before that hair below your shoulders needs to be cut or tied back!

Ochiai-sensei!

Next time I see you, if you haven't put it right, then I'll cut it myself!

コキ

DING DONG

Teachers should be strict with their—

Oh, there's the bell.

Get to your class-rooms now.

Hayashi-sensei!

Aren't you being a little harsh on her?

All she thinks about are school rules!

That's why her husband ran away!

She annoys me so much!

2 - 3

I just wish...

...that woman would go to hell.

No!!

You could just tie your hair back while in school.

Hayashi's just an irritating old hag.

I can't stand her.

RING

RING

What's this?

Eh?

xxxx@r9.
Hell Correspondence

Huh.

A message.

BEEP

If you write in the name of someone you hate, then I'll send them to hell.
Hell Girl

This is that urban legend I heard about...

No way!

xxxx

A bad teacher who bullies her students...

Send her to hell!

BEEP BEEP

What-ever.

Like I'd believe this.

HUMPH

Let's see what happens.

Akiko Hayashi

Error:
Sending failed.
Time:
12/13/06 21:55

What? It failed?

I'll try again.

Error:

BEEP

Akiko Hayashi

Error:
Sending failed.
Time:
12/13/06

Akiko Hayashi

BEEP

Error:

Huh?

That's the one! But it was, like, totally useless!

It was just some dumb rumor!

Hell Correspondence.

That site where you can take revenge?

Right. Next!

Do you even have to ask?

So.

Whose name did you put in?

She's doing a uniform check.

Yeah.

Shiraishi-san!!

You're never going to change, are you?!

Oh no!

I've warned you girls enough times too.

BANG

Until you comply with the uniform rules, you will not come in!

?!

Don't you think locking us out of the school is going too far?!

GRAB

Everyone hates you!

Wait!

GRIP

What if you grow up to be adults who can't stick to the rules?

Breaking school rules is not acceptable.

I'M thinking only of the students.

What are you saying?

Hayashi-sensei.

This is a bit too MUCH.

RATTLE

Give us a break, you old hag!

You're just bullying us!

The stu-dents?

RATTLE

Hell Correspondence

If you write of someon I'll send

It was uploaded recently.

Someone must have heard the rumors and made their own site.

A fake Hell Correspon-dence?!

What is that?

I don't know. Could be a joke? Maybe someone was bored.

What do they think they're doing?

No one is going to be sent to hell.

...is that only one name has been entered.

All I know...

It seems that all the students who've been punished by Hayashi-sensei...

...have sent e-Mails to this fake "Hell Girl."

All the students want to send Hayashi-sensei to hell.

Akiko Hayashi

You've been there awhile now.

Any idea who it could be?

It could be any of the hundreds of students.

TAP TAP

Akiko Hayashi

Go to hell.

Akiko Hayashi

Go to...

Go to...

BANG

THUNK

AAAAHHH!!

Old Hayashi.

It was the only way I'd get into school!

Hey, did you hear?

Sanae, your hair!

Oh!

Morning.

Last night...

Hayashi-sensei fell down the stairs.

That's gotta be a lie?!

She's in the hospital now.

Eh?!

No way!

Didn't kill her.

Crap.

Sensei!

Look at this!

Staff Room

I heard...

...it's one of the rumors that the students have been talking about.

Hell? That's creepy.

If you enter the name of someone you hate into Hell Correspondence...

...then the Hell Girl will send them to hell...

Hell Correspondence Hayashi's name Student address

What is this?

Hell Correspondence?!

2 - 3

You know...

I got one of those messages about Hell Correspondence. I put in Hayashi's name.

Yeah, Me too.

You don't think it was because of that, do you?

What is it?

Principal

Could you come to the principal's office, now?

UM... okay.

はは HAHA

But I got an error message.

No one really dies, do they?

Shiraishi-san.

SLIDE

Good morning.

You're the Hell Girl, aren't you?

Sanae Shiraishi-san.

What is this?!

...I wrote that message?!

You can't think...

Hell Correspondent

If you write

of som

I'll

Huh?!

You made it look like the Hell Girl's work. You pushed Hayashi-sensei, didn't you?!

You did this!

Why does he think that it's me?

You used that address to send e-Mails to the students that Hayashi-sensei had punished!

I've never used my school address!

I don't know anything about it!

...we traced it back to your school e-Mail address.

The messages that were addressed from Hell Girl were disguised in various ways but...

Using the school computers to host something like this...

Hell Correspondence

If you write in the name of someone you hate, then

...it wasn't me!

Whoever did it...

Just confess.

I know you're good with computers.

GRAB

But the day before, you stood up to Hayashi-sensei.

I didn't think...

...that Shiraishi-san was capable of this...

And there are some students who heard you saying "She should go to hell."

Ah!

I can't believe...

...Shiraishi-san would do that...

I didn't do it!

Hey, come back!

DASH

"You're to stay at home."

"You don't show any signs of regret... Think of some way of apologizing to Hayashi-sensei!"

I don't know anything about it!

te RING

RING

What can I do to make them believe me?!

I know who the real Hell Girl is!

Hello, Shiraishi-san?

Hello.

It's Ochiai.

Oh. Sensei, what's the matter?

Don't worry.

Computer Room

SLIDE 7

Ochiai-sensei...

.....

So... who was it?!

I'm sorry for calling you so late.

I didn't want to risk any of the other teachers seeing this.

What?!

She did it all. She created a fake Hell Correspondence site and injured herself.

It was Hayashi-sensei.

But why would she do that?

She couldn't accept that a student had stood up to her.

What?

What should I do?

There's only one thing that you can do...

She wanted to make an example out of you.

If she succeeds, then you won't be able to go to high school.

Yes.
So now...

...We use the real Hell Correspondence site!

But...

That was a fake site she set up.

Send her to hell.

23 : 58 : 05

Apparently, you can access it only at exactly Midnight.

I...I wanted to help you, so I researched the real thing.

00 : 00 : 00

This is it!

GULP

ｶｷｷ…

Hell Correspondence

Ochiai-sensei?!

You hate her, don't you?

Quickly. Do it quickly.

Write in Akiko Hayashi!

Wa...

Wait a minute!

Quickly! Come on!

This is it! The real thing!

Stop right there!!

SLIDE

No!

Huh?

But I didn't know that you hated me this much.

I knew straight away that you were one of my old students.

How do y—

Hayashi-sensei.

Right, Nishikawa-san?

This was all your doing, Ochiai-sensei.

...My middle school days were so awful.

Because of you...

It's all your fault that I didn't get into the high school I wanted!!

I was so terrified of your punish-ments.

But then when I ended up working at the same school as you...

you were as bad as ever...

And then you got a divorce.

Served you right!

Akiko Hayashi Cheats

She hits her students

Worst teacher

I made prank phone calls and spread rumors that you were having an affair.

?!

So, I'm going to ask the Hell Girl and get her to take care of you.

There's no way I'm going to hell for you!

But...I heard that in return for revenge, you have to go to hell too...

This girl...

...seems to really despise you.

She set me up!

There are so many students in this school who hate you.

I thought I'd get one of them to send you to hell.

You didn't want to get your own hands dirty.

You did something that no real teacher would ever do.

TAP TAP

tha-tha-!

Hey!

What are you doing?

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete.

The person you hate will be sent straight to hell.

Take this.

The Hell Girlz?!

Whose name did you put in?

Whoz?!

After death, your soul will go down to hell.

To curse someone is to dig a double grave.

And then you even tried to use my students against me.

You took my husband and my children from me.

Answer me!

You can't continue to be a teacher!

What?

You can't—

I don't want to go to hell!

No... Stop.

TUG

Huhz!

Your grudge...

...has been heard.

Wh-what is this?

BANG

BANG

Let me out!

Oh.

PING

We've got Mail.

Sender: Hell Girl

Oh my.

No... No!

?!

Our computer has a virus.

NO!

KRRR KRRR

I'm useless with computers.

Help Me!

Help Me...

Please...

Some-one...

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness.

Your hurtful actions to others...

...have tainted your immortal soul.

AAAAAHHHHH!

Do you want to see what death looks like?

ZWUUP

You would never stoop to such tactics.

You came and confronted me yourself.

How?

Why did you believe in me?

Hayashi-sensei...

What?!

The replacement they got was one of Old Hayashi's pupils!

Won't they just fight again?

And then she ran off some-where!

Pathetic!

Did you hear?

It was all Ochiai's doing.

Hayashi-sensei!

EH!

I'm going to be the same way!

I look forward to teaching you.

Children!

ARGH!

Hayashi-sensei is strict for your own good!

Good Morning!

Morning!

To be continued in volume 5!

Ai's Rage

Aaahh!

DIE!

Rumors

If you put in the name of someone you want to kill, then the Hell Girl will do it for you!

Hey, have you heard of Hell Correspondence?

GRR!

Miss, no!

WHOOSH

Oh, did you also hear?

Miss spreads the rumors herself.

That's impressive!

If you get in the way, then I'll puncture you!

Needle

I'll get you!

Her breasts aren't real.

That big-breasted woman who is with the Hell Girl?

Inside, he's air?

Aaah?!

He's a tire?

Or bone?

Silicon?

Not real? Fakes?

Don't go around saying that!

Clumsy Ai-chan

Since the second season...

...I think Ai has gotten stupider.

She falls in the river...

Stubs her toenails...

Banana skin

SLIP

Careful, Miss!

WAAAH!

Worrying

Waah!

CRUNCH

!!

What happened?

Aaaaaah!

The computer broke! I can't see my e-mail!

What do I do?

I don't know when my candy is going to be delivered.

I'm trying to be clumsy and cute!

Stop getting in my way!

What?

She's not worried about our clients at all!

I don't think that's going to work.

Yoroshiku

ACK!

Boring.

Now that you mention it, Wanyuudou is the only one who hasn't changed his clothes.

Brand New

Brand new.

My kimono.

How about this?!

Yo-ro-shi-ku

In that case...

...I'll change myself!

Heh!

So cute!

You're looking fabu-lous!

Change back now.

Yuck...

Money! ♥

Now that my anime is a hit...

Wah...

I'm so jealous of you.

Heh heh heh!

To be continued

Kikuri's Diary

I thought that you were Hone Onna's daughter.

Kikuri...

Nice to meet you. I'm Kikuri.

HMM.

Why?!

You both wear skimpy clothes.

We don't look alike!

Skimpy.

BOING

Skimpy?

The Hell Girl is four hundred years old now, so her thinking is a little outdated.

NAG NAG NAG

A girl shouldn't show too much skin... (etc.)

Kikuri's Diary

Today, I rode on Wanyuudou's shoulders.

RUB RUB

So bald and shiny!

Hey.

You...

Car thief!

Wanyuu-dou.

We're going to hell!

SLIDE

Hey!

When he's like this.

To get places, Hell Girl rides in Wanyuudou.

Aaah!

Get off!

Kikuri's Diary

STARE

She plays around a lot.

It's Ichimokuren's turn today.

DUM DI DUM キョロ キョロ

ACK!

Watch Kikuri properly!

Hell Girl made me confess to that later.

ピロン TWITCH ピロン

HAH HAH

It was freaky.

Aaaah! Ichimokuren!

● TO BE CONTINUED? ●

This volume sees the debut of a new character, Kikuri-chan. In "Kikuri's Diary," we see her mischievous side; however, in the next book, I plan to have her do more bad things.

A big thank you to:
the people at Aniplex,
Maruyama-sama and Oriuchi-sama,
all those involved, and all those who helped.

About the Creator

Miyuki Eto

Birth date: July 3
Astrological sign: Cancer
Blood type: A

Born in Hiroshima prefecture, Miyuki Eto made her manga debut in *Nakayoshi* magazine's "Summer Vacationland" special issue with the story "Lila's Flower Language." That story won her the 25th Annual *Nakayoshi* New Manga Artist Award. To date, *Hell Girl* may be her best-known work. Her hobby is taking care of her cats!

Translation Notes

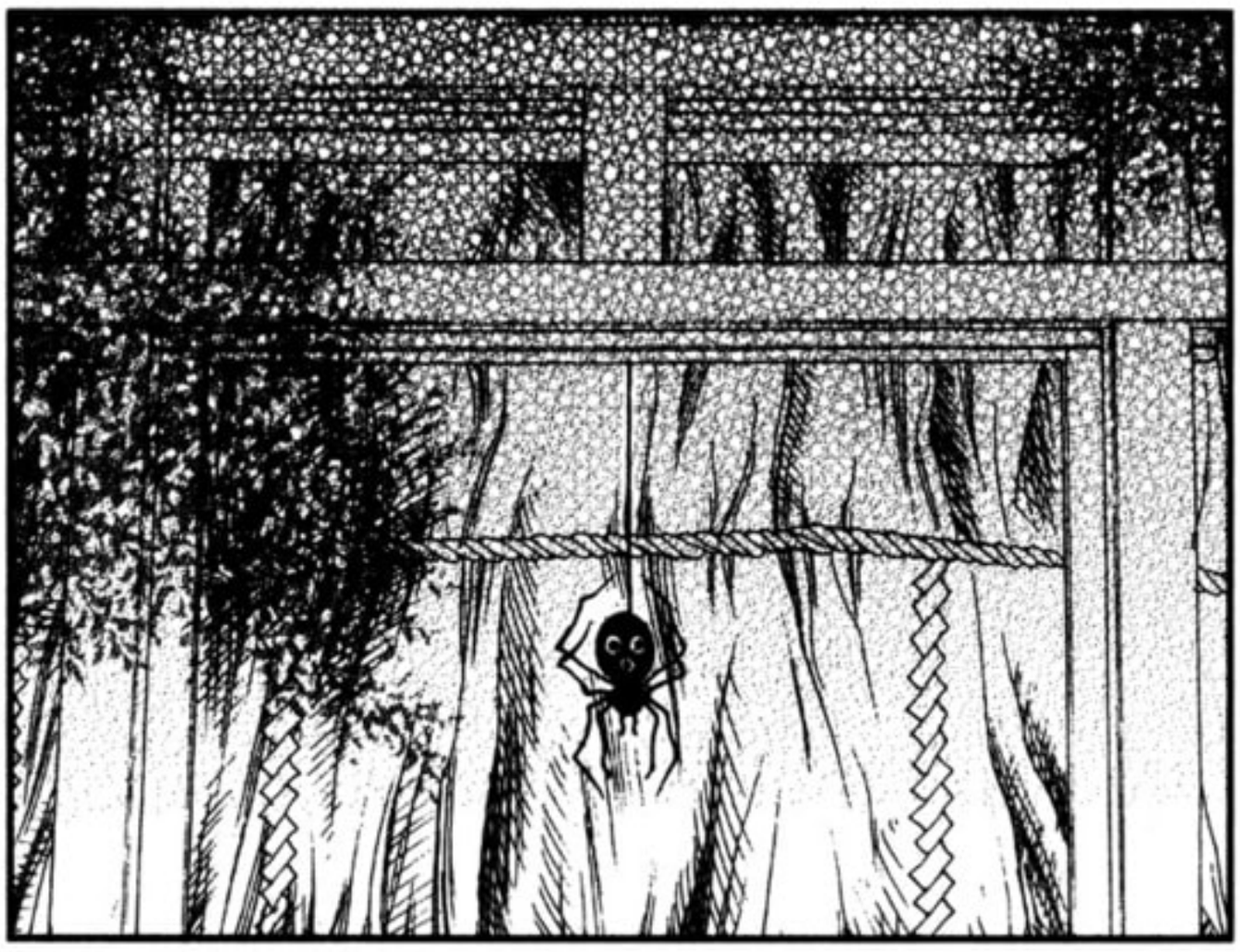
Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

***Torii*, page 2**

Ai finds herself facing a traditional Japanese gate, or *torii*. These are a common sight at Japanese Shinto shrines, as well as some Buddhist shrines. They traditionally mark the transition between the normal world and sacred space.

***Shide* and *shimenawa*, page 2**

Behind the *torii* that Ai is facing is a tree decorated with a rope and zigzag paper streamers. This is another aspect of Japanese Shinto tradition. The rope is known as a *shimenawa* and is used to mark a sacred area. They are also used around trees or rocks that are believed to be the home of spirits. In particular, trees are sometimes believed to be the residence of spirits called *kodamas*. Cutting down their homes would result in great misfortune, so they are marked by *shimenawas*. The *shimenawa* itself will often be decorated with *shide*, which is paper that's been folded into a zigzag shape.



The spider, page 3
The use of the spider here could be an allusion to a famous story by Akutagawa Ryuunosuke called "The Spider's Thread." In the story, Buddha gives a man a chance to escape hell by throwing him a single spider's thread to use to climb out.

***Shiro*, page 56**
The Japanese word for "white" is *shiroi*, so Yuuka chooses to call her new dog Shiro.

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